AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network, said arrangement comprising:

a global processor in the GPRS network that stores a global pool of available IP-addresses; and

a plurality of application processors in associated external networks connected to the GPRS network, each of the application processors ~~being adapted to~~ comprising:

~~store blocks~~ means for storing a plurality of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses, wherein the ~~size of the blocks~~ number of IP-addresses in the internal pool of ~~each~~ a given application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the given application ~~processors~~ processor while ensuring that a sufficient number of ~~blocks is~~ IP-addresses are available to serve all requests for additional IP-addresses from users in the application processor's associated external network;

~~supply~~ means for supplying an IP-address from the application processor's internal pool to a user in the application processor's associated external network upon request; and

~~request~~ means for requesting an additional IP-address from the global processor when the application processor's internal pool of IP-addresses is empty or nearly empty;

wherein the global processor ~~is adapted to transfer~~ comprises:

means for transferring from the global pool to a requesting application processor, a block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-addresses in response to a request for an additional IP-address from the requesting application processor; and

means for dynamically adjusting the size of the blocks of IP-addresses transferred to the application processors to minimize the amount of traffic required for the application processors to request IP-addresses from the global processor and for the global processor to distribute IP-addresses to the application processors, while also ensuring that each application processor has a sufficient number of IP-addresses available to serve all requests for additional IP-addresses from users in each application processor's associated external network;

wherein the global processor transfers a larger block of IP-addresses to an application processor that receives a greater number of requests for IP-addresses from users in the application processor's associated external network.

12. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein a given application processor is adapted to release a block of IP-addresses to users and notify the global processor of the release, if the number of IP-addresses in the internal pool of the given application processor exceeds a predefined limit.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the predefined limit is equal to two times the size of the block of IP-addresses last received from the global processor.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the global processor is arranged to release addresses that have not been used in a preceding interval of time.

15. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each application processor is arranged to store the internal pool of IP-addresses in a Random-Access Memory (RAM), and to make back-up copies of the internal pool on a persistent storage medium at regular intervals.

16. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for distributing resources in a network, said arrangement comprising:

a global processor in the network that stores a global pool of available resources; and

a plurality of application processors in associated external networks connected to the network, each of the application processors ~~being adapted to~~ comprising:

~~store blocks~~ means for storing a plurality of resources in an internal pool of resources, wherein the ~~size of the blocks~~ number of resources in the internal pool of ~~each~~ a given application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute resources between the global processor and the given application ~~processors~~ processor while ensuring that a sufficient number of ~~blocks is~~ resources are available to serve all requests for additional resources from users in the application processor's associated external network;

~~supply~~ means for supplying a resource from the application processor's internal pool to a user in the application processor's associated external network upon request; and

~~request~~ means for requesting an additional resource from the global processor when the application processor's internal pool of resources is empty or nearly empty;

wherein the global processor ~~is adapted to transfer~~ comprises:

means for transferring from the global pool to a requesting application processor, a block of resources comprising a plurality of resources in response to a request for an additional resource from the requesting application processor; and

means for dynamically adjusting the size of the blocks of resources transferred to the application processors to minimize the amount of traffic required for the application processors to request resources from the global processor and for the

global processor to distribute resources to the application processors, while also ensuring that each application processor has a sufficient number of resources available to serve all requests for additional resources from users in each application processor's associated external network;

wherein the global processor transfers a larger block of resources to an application processor that receives a greater number of requests for resources from users in the application processor's associated external network.

17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A method of distributing IP-addresses from a global processor in a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network to a plurality of application processors in associated external networks connected to the GPRS network, wherein each of the application processors provides IP-addresses to users in the application processor's associated external network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a global pool of available IP-addresses in the global processor in the GPRS network;

receiving a request for an additional IP-address from a given application processor;

determining how many IP-addresses to send to the given application processor in a block of IP-addresses based on the given application processor's rate of usage of IP-addresses, the rate of usage of IP-addresses of other application processors, and the number of available IP-addresses in the global pool, said block also being sized to minimize the amount of traffic required for the plurality of application processors to request IP-addresses from the global processor and for the global processor to distribute IP-addresses to the application processors; and

transferring the block of IP-addresses from the global pool to the given application processor in response to the request for an additional IP-address from the given application processor.